

Application No. 09/761,748
Filed January 18th 2001

Group Art Unit: 2161

Examiner: Pierre Eddy Elisca
Inventor: Michael Hu

AMENDMENT A - Clean Version

1. (Amended) An object authentication method comprising the following steps:
 - (a) printing upon each of a plurality of objects each possessing a recognized creator an origin code component which is unique to said recognized creator of said plurality of objects;
 - (b) printing upon each of said plurality of objects an authentication code component derived algorithmically from a base related to said origin code component each of which is unique with respect to every other said authentication code derived from said base related to said origin code component;
 - (c) recording said origin code component in a computer memory registry together with related information pertaining to the recognized creator including the identity of the same;
 - (d) recording in said registry each said authentication code component printed upon each of said plurality of objects for, and in a manner related to, said origin code component;
 - (e) recording in said registry, in a manner related to each said authentication code component, an ownership code component including an ownership status which has at least two conditions each indicative of a type of ownership including that by the recognized creator of said plurality of objects initially and which condition is variable by authorized access to said registry to reflect transfer of ownership inclusive of declension of said ownership status to a condition indicating the type of ownership anticipated in a recognized chain of ownership types from creator to public as an indication of sale of an object bearing said origin and authentication code components by an entity recognized as being of the type of ownership indicated by the ownership status for said object;

whereby each said authentication code component may be verified as being a valid, algorithmically derived, authentication code component printed upon one of said plurality of objects possessing a single recognized creator, and the ownership status indicating the type of ownership recognized for each said authentication code component may be ascertained, both with reference to said origin and authentication code components in said registry.

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2. The authentication method of claim 1 wherein said registry is accessible with regard to verification of a given origin code component and authentication code component pair to the public via the world wide web (WWW).
3. The authentication method of claim 1 wherein said registry is accessible with regard to the ownership status of a given origin code component and authentication code component pair to the public via the world wide web (WWW).
4. The authentication method of claim 1 wherein said origin code printed upon said plurality of objects by said recognized creator is inclusive of a creation time subcomponent code corresponding to the time of creation.
5. The authentication method of claim 4 wherein said base related to said origin code component is comprised of said creation time subcomponent code.
6. The authentication method of claim 1 wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed utilizing alphanumeric characters.
7. The authentication method of claim 6 wherein steps (a) and (b) result in alphanumeric characters which are visible to the human eye.
8. The authentication method of claim 1 wherein steps (a) and (b) are conducted with Machine Readable Rendering (MRR) and result in printed origin and authentication code components which are machine readable.

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9. The authentication method of claim 8 wherein said printed origin and authentication code components are comprised of bar code.
10. The authentication method of claim 8 wherein said printed origin and authentication code components are comprised of magnetic ink suited for Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR).
11. Cancel.

a2 12. (Amended) The authentication method of claim 1 further including the step of printing a receipt of sales bearing the origin and authentication code components.

a3 13. The authentication method of claim 12 wherein said receipt of sales further bears an indication of said declension of ownership status.

a3 14. (Amended) The authentication method of claim 1 wherein at least three different types of ownership status are utilized including creator and public and at least two declensions of ownership status are provided.

a4 15. The authentication method of claim 14 wherein at least four different types of ownership status are utilized including creator and public and at least three declensions of ownership status are provided.

a4 16. (Amended) The authentication method of claim 1 further including the step of recording into said registry a secret ownership code subcomponent available only after declension of ownership status to public.

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17. The authentication method of claim 16 wherein said secret ownership code subcomponent is initially entered with reference to the origin and authentication code components in said registry and after entry is accessible only with the origin and authentication code components and the secret ownership code subcomponent.
18. The authentication method of claim 17 wherein entrance of said secret ownership code subcomponent with reference to said origin and authentication code components is made over the WWW.
19. The authentication method of claim 17 wherein said secret ownership code subcomponent is initially entered with the origin and authentication code components and after entry is alterable only with the origin and authentication code components and the secret ownership code subcomponent.
20. The authentication method of claim 17 wherein a private ownership status indicating private registration of the object by a member of the public accorded as the result of initial entrance of a secret ownership code subcomponent.
21. The authentication method of claim 20 wherein a reverse declension from private ownership status to another status is effectable with the origin and authentication code components and the secret ownership code subcomponent.
22. The authentication method of claim 20 wherein said reverse declension from private ownership status further results in clearing of said secret ownership code subcomponent.

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23. The authentication method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of objects upon which a printed origin and authentication code components are printed by a single recognized creator is comprised of paper currency.
24. The authentication method of claim 23 wherein both human and machine readable origin and authentication code components are printed upon said paper currency.
25. The authentication method of claim 24 wherein said machine readable origin and authentication code components are printed utilizing Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR).
26. The authentication method of claim 23 wherein said one said status condition is 'home' indicating ownership by an authorized entity including any government entity involved in the printing and distribution of said paper currency.
27. The authentication method of claim 26 wherein said 'home' status condition indicates ownership by an authorized entity including any government entity involved in the printing and distribution of said paper currency and including recognized Deposit Taking Institutions.
28. The authentication method of claim 27 wherein said one said status condition is 'public' indicating ownership by any entity exclusive of any government entity involved in the printing and distribution of said paper currency.
29. The authentication method of claim 28 wherein said 'public' status condition indicates ownership by an authorized entity exclusive of any government entity involved in the printing and distribution of said paper currency and recognized Deposit Taking Institutions.

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30. The authentication method of claim 29 wherein said one said status condition is 'bank' indicating ownership by a recognized Deposit Taking Institution.
31. The authentication method of claim 28 wherein said 'public' status condition is exclusive of indicating ownership by a recognized business.
32. The authentication method of claim 31 wherein one said status condition is 'base' which is inclusive of indicating ownership by a recognized business.
33. The authentication method of claim 1 wherein multiple creators are each recognized with a unique origin code component.
34. The authentication method of claim 33 wherein multiple creators are each recognized with a unique origin code component in the same registry.
35. The authentication method of claim 33 wherein multiple creators are each recognized with a unique origin code component in a registry particular to one origin code component connected in a network comprised of other registries.
36. The authentication method of claim 33 wherein multiple creators are each recognized with a unique origin code component in the same registry connected in a network with at least one other registry.
37. The authentication method of claim 33 wherein each said origin code component includes a universal code subcomponent relating to the type of creator by category.

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38. The authentication method of claim 37 further including the step of recording in computer memory registry a directory of universal code subcomponents with information relating to a categorization of recognized creators.
39. The authentication method of claim 33 wherein said plurality of objects upon which origin and authentication code components is each printed is comprised of titled financial notes.
40. The authentication method of claim 39 wherein one said status condition indicates ownership by the recognized possessor of the title.
41. The authentication method of claim 33 wherein said plurality of objects upon which said origin and authentication code components is each printed is comprised of works of art.
42. The authentication method of claim 41 wherein three different status conditions are utilized: 'creator'; 'dealer', i.e. authorized purveyor; and 'public'.
43. The authentication method of claim 41 wherein four different status conditions are utilized: 'creator'; 'dealer', i.e. authorized purveyor; 'public'; and 'private' which indicates registered ownership by entrance of a secret ownership code subcomponent.
44. The authentication method of claim 33 wherein said plurality of objects upon which origin and authentication code components is each printed is comprised of mass produced manufactured goods.

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45. The authentication method of claim 44 wherein both human and machine readable origin and authentication code components are printed upon said mass produced manufactured goods.
46. The authentication method of claim 45 wherein said machine readable origin and authentication code components are printed utilizing Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR).
47. The authentication method of claim 45 wherein said machine readable origin and authentication code components are printed utilizing bar code.
48. The authentication method of claim 44 wherein three different status conditions are utilized: 'manufacturer', as creator; authorized purveyor; and public.
49. The authentication method of claim 48 wherein four different status conditions are utilized: 'manufacturer', as creator; authorized purveyor; public; and private which indicates registered ownership by entrance of a secret ownership code subcomponent.
50. The authentication method of claim 44 wherein four different status conditions are utilized: 'manufacturer', as creator; distributor, retailer; and public.
51. The authentication method of claim 50 wherein five different status conditions are utilized: 'manufacturer', as creator; distributor, retailer; public; and private which indicates registered ownership by entrance of a secret ownership code subcomponent.
52. The authentication method of claim 31 wherein at least one said creator maintains a web site accessible from a registry.

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53. The authentication method of claim 52 wherein at least one said web site is accessible from input of an origin code component.
54. The authentication method of claim 52 wherein at least one said web site is accessible from input of a creator code subcomponent.
55. The authentication method of claim 52 wherein at least one said web site is accessible from a directory of recognized manufacturers.
56. The authentication method of claim 52 wherein at least one said web site is accessible from a directory for universal code subcomponents.
57. The authentication method of claim 52 wherein at least one said web site provides information about services provided by the creator.
58. The authentication method of claim 57 wherein said information about services provided by the creator is inclusive of information sufficient to place an order for services.
59. The authentication method of claim 52 wherein at least one said web site provides information about objects produced by the creator.
60. The authentication method of claim 59 wherein said information about services provided by the creator is inclusive of information sufficient to place an order for new product.

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61. The authentication method of claim 59 wherein said information about services provided by the creator is inclusive of information sufficient to place an order for replacement parts.
62. The authentication method of claim 59 wherein said information about services provided by the creator is inclusive of information sufficient to place an order for refills.